



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

July 28, 2014

LOMBARD, BEN, TREASURER
MAINE REPUBLICAN PARTY
9 HIGGINS STREET
AUGUSTA, ME 04330

Response Due Date
09/02/2014

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00003111

REFERENCE: JUNE MONTHLY REPORT (05/01/2014 - 05/31/2014)

Dear Treasurer:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. **Failure to adequately respond by the response date noted above could result in an audit or enforcement action.** Additional information is needed for the following 2 item(s):

1. Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "PAYROLL BENEFITS." Please be advised that pursuant to 11 CFR §300.33(c)(2), salaries and wages for employees who spend more than 25% of their compensated time in a given month on Federal Election Activity (FEA) or activities in connection with a Federal election must not be allocated between or among federal and non-federal accounts. Rather, only federal funds may be used. Further, the Commission concluded in Advisory Opinion 2003-11 that amounts spent for employee-specific "fringe benefits," consisting of health insurance, disability insurance, life insurance, retirement benefits and payroll taxes, fall into the category of compensated time.

Please clarify whether this activity is for employees who spent 25% or less of their time during the month(s) referenced above on FEA or activities in connection with a Federal election. If this is not the case, any reimbursement from your committee's non-federal account for this payment is not permissible and must be returned. Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding any improper allocation activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

2. Schedule H4 of your report discloses \$9,400.00 in payments for "ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTING" and "STRATEGY CONSULTING" to individuals. Please clarify whether these individuals are employees of your

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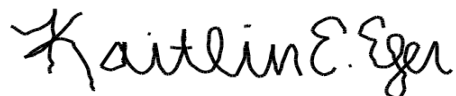
committee. If they are employees, please clarify whether this activity is for employees who spent 25% or less of their time during the month(s) referenced above on Federal Election Activity (FEA) or activities in connection with a Federal election. You are advised that pursuant to 11 CFR §300.33(c)(2), salaries and wages for employees who spend more than 25% of their compensated time in a given month on FEA or activities in connection with a Federal election must not be allocated between or among federal, non-federal and Levin accounts. Rather, only federal funds may be used.

Any reimbursement from your committee's non-federal or Levin account for salary and wage payments for employees who spent more than 25% of their compensated time in a given month on FEA is not permissible and must be returned. Please provide clarification regarding these payments.

Please note, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter. Adequate responses must be received by the Commission on or before the due date noted above to be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act may also result in an enforcement action against the committee. Any response submitted by your committee will be placed on the public record and will be considered by the Commission prior to taking enforcement action. **Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered.**

Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you should have any questions regarding this matter or wish to verify the adequacy of your response, please contact me on our toll-free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or my local number (202) 694-1143.

Sincerely,



Kaitlin Eger
Sr. Campaign Finance & Reviewing Analyst
Reports Analysis Division